



# 80th Annual California Capitol Tree Lighting December 7, 2011 California State Capitol West Steps



Makayla Jones, Age 6

**Makayla Jones** of Visalia, California has been selected to represent the more than 250,00 individuals with developmental disabilities served by the California Department of Developmental Services (DDS) in the 80th Annual Tree Lighting at California's State Capitol. Makayla will assist Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. and First Lady Anne Brown light the Tree and hang a special ornament created by a person with a developmental disability. The Tree has been trimmed with 900 hand-crafted ornaments created by children and adults with developmental disabilities who receive services and support from the state's developmental centers and 21 nonprofit regional centers.

Makayla will be accompanied by her parents, Terran and Marria Jones and siblings Jordan (12) and Rylee (10).

Makayla is a six year old kindergartener born March 10, 2005. She began receiving services at Central Valley Regional Center (CVRC) at the age of six months through the Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, known as Early Start in California. The Early Start program is for children and their families from birth to age 3. Early Start services are designed to support and enhance the family's capability to meet the special developmental needs of their infant or toddler with disabilities. The earlier intervention is started, the greater the quality of life is for children with disabilities and their families. Makayla continues to receive services through the Lanterman Developmental Disability Act. Through the support of her family and the services provided by these programs, Makayla has become involved in her community and enjoys a variety of extracurricular activities including dance, baseball and swimming.



Back Row (L to R): Terran, Makayla and Marria Jones  
Front Row (L to R): Jordan and Rylee

Makayla has attended Cottonwood Creek Elementary School in Visalia, California since preschool. Makayla's preschool teacher, Mrs. Quilla was especially influential in Makayla's life. Marria Jones states, "Makayla would not be the girl she is today without Mrs. Quilla. She believes in Makayla and has shown her that she can succeed in her life, no matter what!" Makayla is now in a regular education kindergarten class with Mrs. Leal who according to her parents, "has shown us daily that she believes in Makayla and is excited with her success." Makayla loves books and enjoys going to school because of the teachers that support her. Makayla is known for being playful, social and persistent. These qualities have helped her succeed in school and participate in a variety of activities.



Makayla with her preschool teacher, Mrs. Quilla



Makayla Jones with her brother Jordan Jones and Sister, Rylee Jones

## Family

Father: Terran Jones

Mother: Marria Jones

Tree Lighter: Makayla Jones (6)

Brother: Jordan Jones (12)

Sister: Rylee Jones (10)

## CVRC

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